



Report ABPC/18/18

To: Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.

Date: 8 April 2019

Status: Public Report

Subject: Risk Assessment.

1. **SUMMARY:**

This Report brings to the Parish Council the outcome of the completion of the Risk Assessment on the Parish Council.

2. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION.**

The Parish Council needs to undertake a full risk assessment each year in respect of all of its activities as part of its corporate governance programme.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/18/18.**
2. **To receive and adopt the Risk Assessment.**

4. **INTRODUCTION:**

In all types of undertaking, there is a potential for events and consequences that may either be opportunities for benefit or threats to success. Parish Councils are no different and risk management is central to our strategic management.

Risk management is the process whereby Parish Councils methodically address the risks associated with what they do and the services which they provide. The focus of good risk management is to identify what can go wrong and take proportionate steps to avoid this or successfully manage the consequences.

Risk management is not just about financial management; it is about protecting the achievement of objectives set by the Council to deliver high quality public services. The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation and reputation, the ability to achieve desired targets, and, eventually, on the local community's Council Tax bills.

The Local Council Audit encourages Parish Councils to address these issues by placing emphasis on the need to keep under review and, if need be, strengthen their own Corporate Governance arrangements, thereby improving their stewardship of public funds and providing positive and continuing assurance to taxpayers.

The importance of looking afresh as risk comes in the wake of a more demanding society, bold initiatives and more challenge when things go wrong. It also arises because of the

significant changes taking place as a result of the Government's Localism Agenda.

The Council generally and Members individually are responsible for risk management because risks threaten the achievement of policy objectives.

5. **RISK ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES:**

The review has not highlighted any potential risks at the time of completion.

6. **CONCLUSION**

The Parish Council is required to acknowledge the completion of the Annual Risk Assessment and to note that any changes to its activities will require an additional assessment to be carried out. This Risk Assessment forms part of the Annual Governance Report and can be called for by the Parish Council's External Auditor as one of their checks on the Annual Return.

7. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.**

If you have any queries about this report please contact the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council Tel.: 01233 721757 or email: clerk@ald-bonnpc.kentparishes.gov.uk prior to the meeting.